

Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Residency (PC-NPR)

Program Structure

The PC-NPR residency program is a one-year comprehensive post-graduate residency to facilitate the transition of the new graduate NPs to competent, independent, and professional NP (and, for DNP graduates, a clinical leaders). The Catholic University of America Conway School of Nursing faculty interacts with residents utilizing the Catholic University campus to assess skills, clinical simulation experiences, and reinforcement of learning needs identified by the learner, faculty, and clinical preceptors. The residency includes clinical practice experiences and didactic content, providing participants with a depth of complexity in the care of veterans.

This 12-month residency consists of 40 hours per week, 32 hours per week in clinical settings, and 8 hours of the didactic, conference, and skills training. The nurse practitioner resident will be assigned a mentor in a primary care clinic and rotate through core specialty care rotations. At the end of the core rotations, residents can rotate through various elective specialty clinics while continuing in the primary clinic.

The PC-NPR program is structured to provide the resident clinician with broad exposure to many areas of VA medicine and to refine and expand fundamental clinical skills, professional development opportunities, and enhancement of leadership skills. The residents will be trained in the Veterans Affairs Health System Patient-Centered Care and Whole Health Model and Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring/Caring Science. The NP residents may also complete Nurses Improving the Care of Hospitalized Elders (NICHE) and select topics from the Geriatric Nurse Review Syllabus (GNRS) from the American Geriatrics Society to develop skills to meet the needs of an aging population. The residents will complete self-assessments to identify and target areas for individual improvement in collaboration with the program faculty while working towards full independent clinical practice.

Scholarly/Quality Improvement Project

Approximately two to four months into the residency program, each NP resident will identify one area for quality or process improvement within the medical center as their scholarly project. Each resident will independently complete an assessment of the problem area, a thorough literature review, and a proposal to address the problem. The NP resident will present a proposal to the Evidence-Based Practice Council for feedback and input before the plan's final approval. Once the project is completed, the NP resident is expected to present the completed project to an identified appropriate audience within the DC VAMC. The residents will work closely with their mentors and residency directors to develop their projects. The CUA CSON faculty will provide project

support for the NP residents and editorial assistance for manuscripts. A PowerPoint abstract will be presented upon program completion. As all projects are completed within the DC VAMC, they will highlight VA innovations and practice models that are a hallmark of the VA healthcare system and focus on initiatives to benefit the DC VAMC and the care of the veteran population.

Upon completion of this program, graduates will receive a Residency Completion Certificate from the Residency Program.

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